

Jun. 21. 2007 2:53PM

REVEO-0053DN01

10/690,465

No. 8502 P. 6

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Remarks

Applicants thank the Examiner for the careful attention accorded the instant application. In light of the present amendments and remarks, allowance is respectfully requested.

Claims 12, 16, 17, 18 and 19 have been amended to clarify the additional steps and the transition between the preamble and the steps of the respective claims.

Regarding the Examiner's rejection of the claims using the reference Etzbach WO 98/12265, Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. This reference was discussed in the specification:

"[0007] One recent development was to make controlled shape and size platelet pigments by molding polymers as shown in patent WO98/12265 however the molding process is difficult to use, wastes a lot of expensive material and is costly. Another drawback is removing odd shaped, notched or angled pieces from the mold."

"[0050] Shaped platelets have been made as shown in patent WO 98/12265, which discloses a method of making shaped platelets by molding. The process is not easy to use, is expensive and does not show how to add spatial or spectral makings on the platelets. Further, it is not practical to mold patterned platelets with notches or other angled shapes because of the difficulty in removing such platelets from the mold. In addition, the molding process shown does not disclose the ability to make three dimensionally shaped patterned platelets. The molding process shown also wastes a lot of expensive material increasing the cost of the molded patterned platelets."

Notwithstanding the direct differences between the process of Etzbach described in the specification, to expedite prosecution, the independent claims have been amended to recite that the masks create well-defined shapes and sizes. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that all of the outstanding rejections be withdrawn, since they are all based, at least in part, on Etzbach.

No new matter is presented herein. Favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

By


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June 21, 2007

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